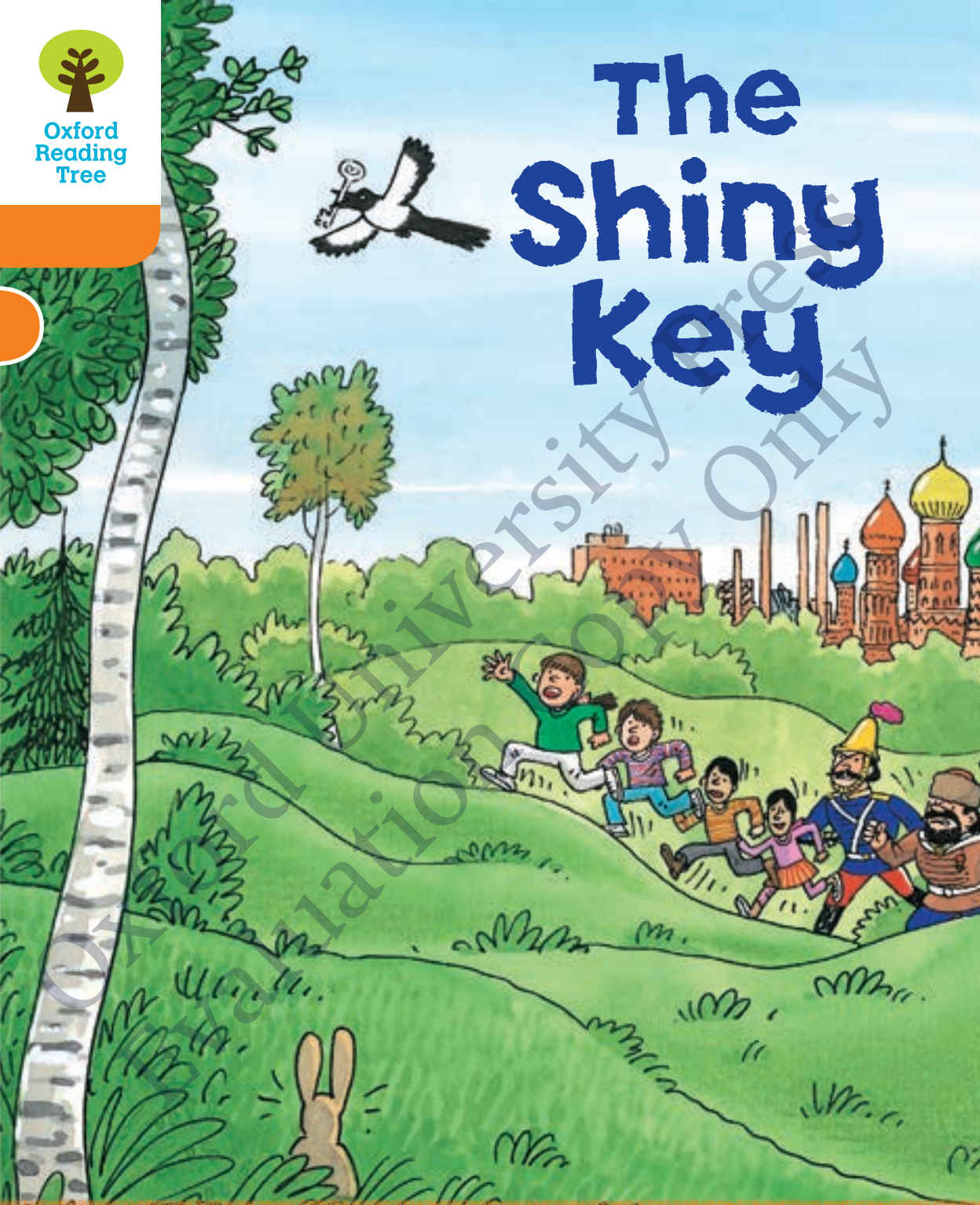


The Shiny Key





Written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrated by Alex Brychta

BEFORE READING

Talk together

- Look at the cover and read the title together. Ask: *What do you think this story is about?*
- Look at the magpie on the cover. Ask: *What is the magpie doing?*
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

About the words in this book

- Your child should be able to sound out and blend some words, which may include:

**about your made careful
here came saw watching
adventure gloomy**

- Some words may be more challenging. Encourage or model blending, then read the words below to your child if necessary.

**oh looked called asked
couldn't climbed television
programme thief
beautiful thought**



DURING READING

Enjoy the story together.
If your child needs support to read the story:

- Remind your child to blend unfamiliar words from left to right.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Re-read sentences to focus on their meaning where necessary.



See the inside back cover
for more ideas.



Chip was watching television. The magic key was on the arm of the chair. Nadim came to play.



Chip didn't want to play. He wanted to watch television. He wanted to watch a programme about magpies.



Nadim wanted a magic adventure. Chip looked for the magic key, but he couldn't find it. Nadim helped Chip to look.



Chip looked at the armchair.

“I put the key on the arm of the chair,”
he said.

Suddenly, he had an idea.



The children looked in the armchair.
They found lots of things. Chip found
Mum's missing ear-ring.

"Mum will be pleased," he said.



Chip found the key. It was stuck to a toffee.

“Yuk!” said Chip. “It’s all sticky.”



Chip told Mum about the armchair. He gave Mum the missing ear-ring. Nadim cleaned the key. He made it very shiny.



The children went into Biff's room. Biff looked at the key.

“Oh no! It looks very shiny,” she said. “I hope the magic still works.”

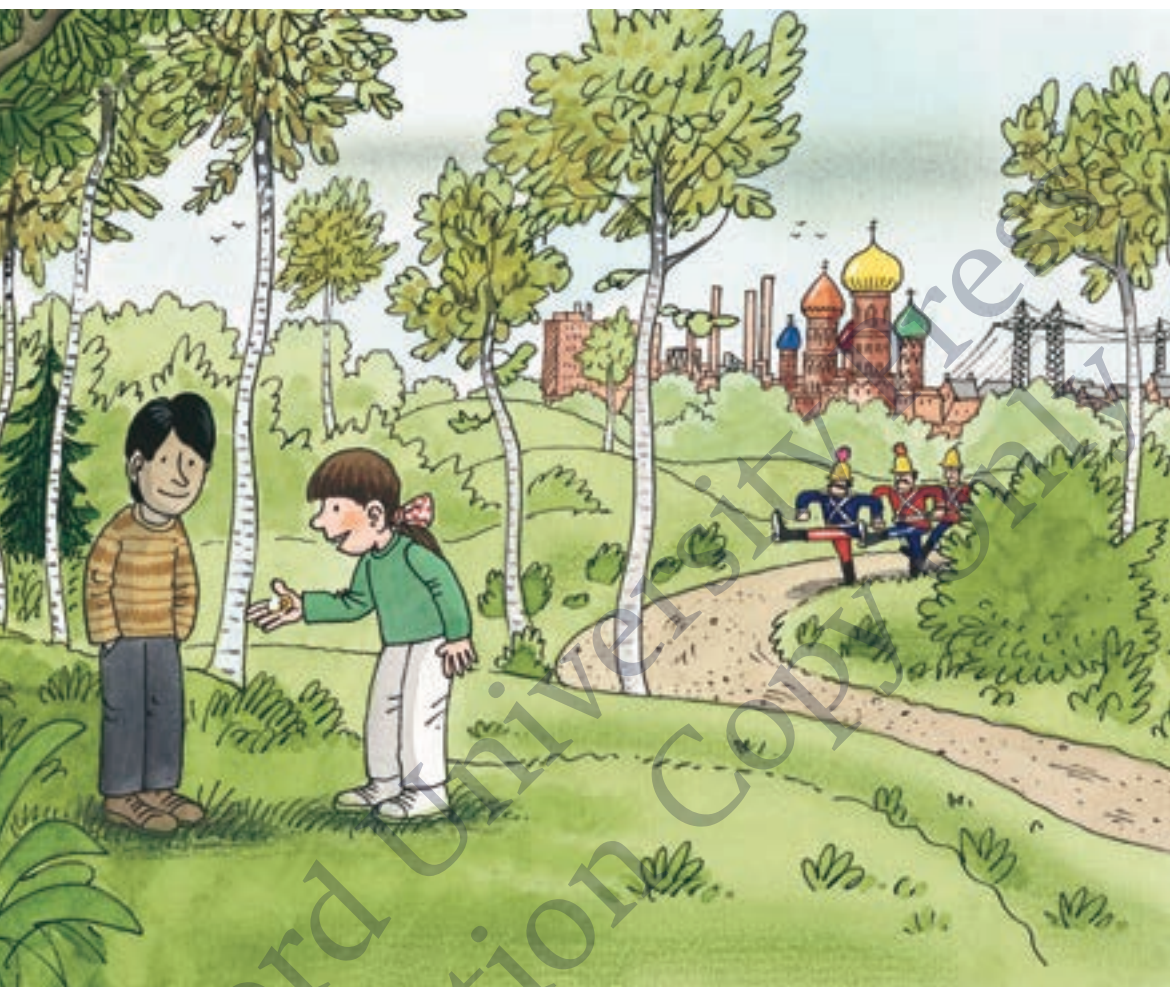


Suddenly, the key began to glow. It looked very bright. The magic took the children into a new adventure.



The children were in a wood. Chip didn't like it. The wood was dark and gloomy.

"Come on!" he said.



Suddenly, Biff saw something shiny. She picked it up.

“What a beautiful ring!” she said.
“Somebody must have dropped it.”



The children saw some soldiers. The soldiers saw the ring. They grabbed the children.

“That ring is stolen,” they said.



The soldiers took the children to the prince.

“We’ve found the thieves,” they said.
“Here’s your ring.”



“Here are the thieves,” said the prince.
“What else have they stolen?”

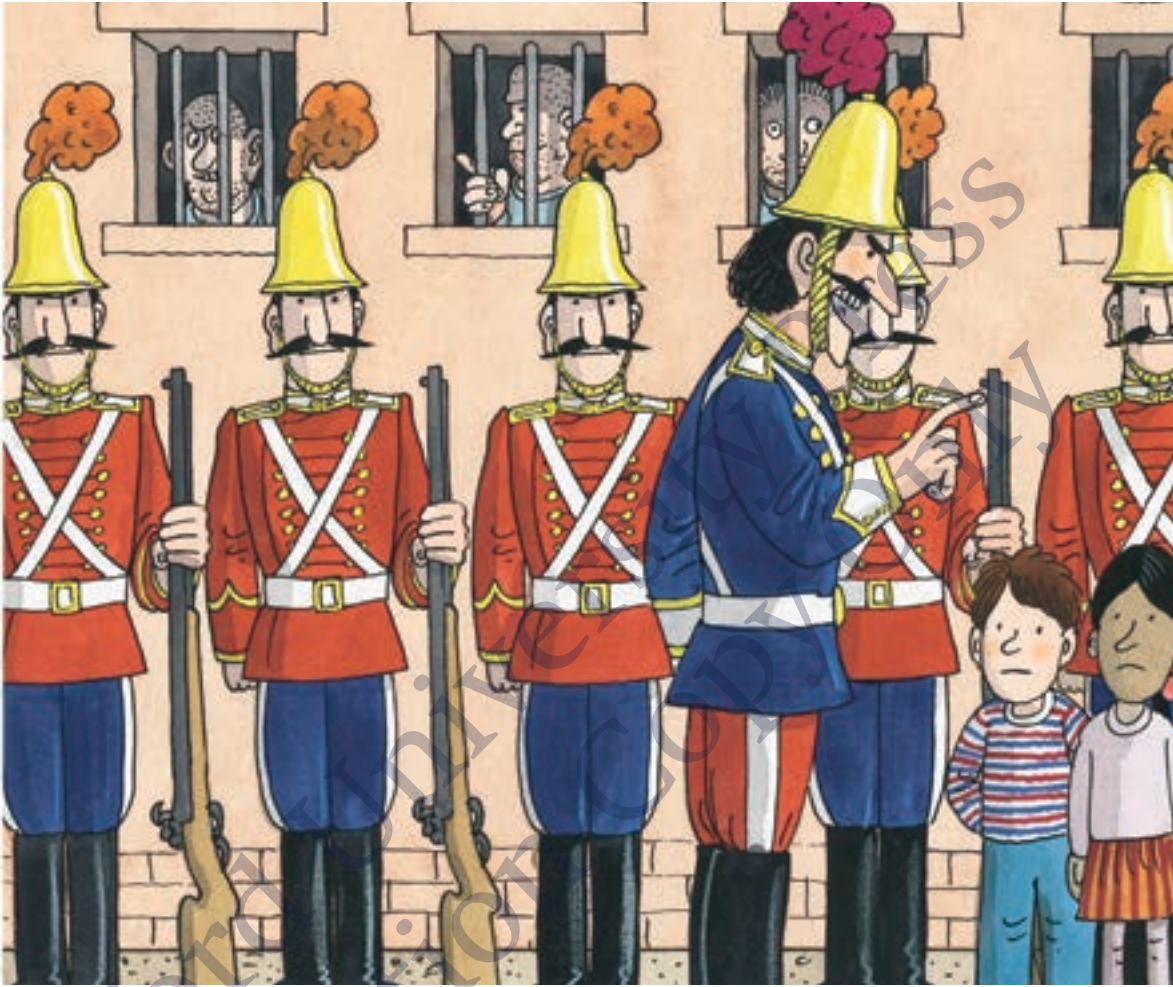
“My watch was stolen,” said a man.

“My ear-ring was stolen,” said a lady.



A soldier took the magic key.

“Look at this shiny key,” he said. “These children have stolen things. They must have locked them away.”



The soldiers took the children to a prison.

“Where are the stolen things?” they asked. “Tell us, or we’ll lock you up.”



Suddenly, a magpie flew down. It took the magic key.

“Stop that magpie!” called Biff. “It’s stolen the key.”



The magpie flew to the woods.

“The magpie is the thief,” said Chip.

The children ran after the magpie.

Everyone ran after the children.



The magpie flew to a tree.

“Look in its nest,” said Chip.

Nadim climbed the tree.

“Be careful,” called Biff.



Nadim looked in the magpie's nest. It was full of shiny things. Nadim gasped.
“What beautiful things!” he said.



“You see!” said Anneena, crossly. “We aren’t thieves. The magpie took your things.”

“Sorry!” said the soldier.



Everyone was pleased.

“Here’s my missing ear-ring,” said a lady.

“Here’s my watch,” said a man.



The prince gave the children a medal.
“The magpie was the thief,” he said.
“Sorry, we thought it was you.”
The magic key began to glow.



“Magpies like shiny things,” said Biff.

“So it was a good job Nadim made the magic key shiny, after all.”

AFTER READING

- Turn to page 13. Ask: *How are the children feeling now? How would you feel if you were there?*
- Turn to page 23. Talk about why two soldiers are fighting.
- At the end of the story, ask: *Can you see any links between the adventure the children had, and what Chip and Nadim had just been doing? (magpies, finding lost things)*

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The Shiny Key



The children get the blame when some jewellery is stolen.



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